

Amendments to the Claims

Please add new claims 32-33 as follows. A complete listing of the claims with proper claims identifiers follows. This listing replaces all previous listings and versions of claims in the application.

1-5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 24 wherein an additional high-potency sweetener selected from the group consisting of aspartame, alitame, salts of acesulfame, cyclamate and its salts, saccharin and its salts, sucralose, thaumatin, monellin, dihydrochalcone, glycyrrhizin, stevioside and combinations thereof is mixed with the N-substituted derivative of aspartame before it is applied in the rolling compound.

7-10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 26 wherein an additional high-potency sweetener selected from the group consisting of aspartame, alitame, salts of acesulfame, cyclamate and its salts, saccharin and its salts, sucralose, thaumatin, monellin, dihydrochalcone, glycyrrhizin, stevioside, and combinations thereof is mixed with the N-substituted derivative of aspartame in the coating.

12-23. (Canceled)

24. (Previously presented) A method of producing a chewing gum product containing a N-substituted derivative of aspartame wherein the N-substituted derivative of aspartame is applied as a part of a rolling compound applied on the chewing gum product.

25. (Original) The method of Claim 24 wherein the N-substituted derivative of aspartame is selected from the group consisting of:

a) N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester;

b) N-[N-[3-(4-hydroxy-3-menthoxyphenyl)propyl]-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester; and

c) N-[N-(3-phenylpropyl)-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester.

26. (Previously presented) A method of producing a chewing gum product containing a N-substituted derivative of aspartame wherein the N-substituted derivative of aspartame is applied as a part of a coating on a chewing gum pellet, the coating being formed by a panning procedure.

27. (Original) The method of Claim 26 wherein the N-substituted derivative of aspartame is selected from the group consisting of:

a) N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester;

b) N-[N-[3-(4-hydroxy-3-menthoxyphenyl)propyl]-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester; and

c) N-[N-(3-phenylpropyl)-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester.

28-29. (Canceled)

30. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24 wherein the N-substituted derivative of aspartame comprises
N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester.

31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 26 wherein the N-substituted derivative of aspartame comprises
N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester.

32. (New) The method of claim 24 wherein the N-substituted derivative of aspartame is incorporated in the rolling compound applied to the product such that it releases from the product more quickly when chewed than if the N-substituted derivative of aspartame were mixed into the chewing gum in an untreated fashion.

33. (New) The method of claim 26 wherein the N-substituted derivative of aspartame is incorporated in the panned coating on the product such that it releases from the product more quickly when chewed than if the N-substituted derivative of

aspartame were mixed into the chewing gum in an untreated fashion.